

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (new): A wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.

Claim 14 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said nozzle further comprising a peripheral wall, said peripheral wall having at least one cut-out through which said wire-guide system passes.

Claim 15 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system is fastened to said nozzle.

Claim 16 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said first axis and said second axis are oriented at an angle between about 10° and about 70° relative to each other.

Claim 17 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 16, wherein said first axis and said second axis are oriented at an angle between about 15° and about 45° relative to each other.

Claim 18 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system is hollow and generally oblong shaped.

Claim 19 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 18, wherein said wire-guide system has the shape of a hollow tube, said hollow tube having an internal diameter between about 0.6 mm and about 2 mm.

Claim 20 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system further comprises a second section parallel to said first axis contiguous with a third section, said third section comprising a curved part, wherein said second section and said third section are located outside said nozzle.

Claim 21 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 20, wherein said second section comprises third axis, the distance separating said third axis from said first axis being less than about 30 mm.

Claim 22 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said nozzle further comprises attachment means for attaching said nozzle to a welding torch.

Claim 23 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 22, wherein said attachment means comprises a thread provided on the outer peripheral wall of said nozzle.

Claim 24 (new): A TIG welding torch, comprising at least one wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.

Claim 25 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 24, further comprising a non-consumable electrode placed relative to said wire-guide/nozzle assembly in such a way that said consumable wire conveyed by the wire guide penetrates said nozzle, wherein the angle between said first axis and said second axis is between about 5° and about 50°, wherein said consumable wire and said electrode lie in one and the same plane.

Claim 26 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 25, wherein the angle between said first axis and said second axis is between about 10° and about 30°.

Claim 27 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 25, further comprising a mounting onto which said wire-guide/nozzle assembly is fitted in a predefined position.

Claim 28 (new): A robotic welding unit, comprising at least one robotic arm comprising a TIG welding torch, further comprising at least one wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.